



250 N. Fowler St.  
P.O. Box 755  
Bishop, CA 93515  
P: (760) 873-4554  
F: (760) 873-9277  
[www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org)

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Contact: Kay Ogden, Executive Director at (760) 873-4554 or  
[Kay@eslt.org](mailto:Kay@eslt.org)

Pollinators: The Key to a Blooming Backyard

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust to host free Pollinator Garden Workshop  
and Potluck on April 6<sup>th</sup>*

As gardening season begins and wildflowers start to appear, you may also spot the fluttering pollinators that make the beauty of spring in the Eastern Sierra possible. Over one-third of the world's crops and over 90% of flowering plants are dependent on pollinators. We feel their impact everywhere: in our delicious home-cooked dinners, in our flowering backyards and in the colorful hillsides of spring. Without pollinators, the world might become a strange and barren place.

Over 40% of invertebrate pollinators like butterflies and bees are facing extinction due to the heavy impact of disease, pesticides and habitat loss. As the pollinators suffer, so do the beautiful and productive landscapes – along with the people and wildlife that call them home.

There's good news, though. There is an easy way to keep Eastern Sierra pollinators thriving. Creating blooming gardens with native plants is one way for anyone to help keep pollinators thriving in their backyards and in the region.

Those interested in learning how to create a pollinator-friendly garden are invited to attend Eastern Sierra Land Trust's (ESLT's) Pollinator Garden Workshop and potluck taking place on Saturday April 6, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Inyo Council for the Arts. There will be information, guidance and resources for anyone ready to harness the power of pollinators and create their own pollinator haven. There will be a potluck following the workshop with opportunities to learn about improving an established pollinator-friendly garden and meet other local gardeners. All are welcome to join ESLT for one or both parts of the workshop.

Local experts – including Katie Quinlan of the California Native Plant Society, Pete Pumphrey of Eastern Sierra Audubon and Roberta Lagomarsini of Inyo-Mono Master Gardeners – will share tips and information on native plants, bird-friendly gardening, drip irrigation and everything else needed to grow a pollinator-friendly garden. Potluck attendees will dive further into these topics and more as they learn about next steps after establishing a Certified Eastside Pollinator Garden.

With support from California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Eastern Sierra Land Trust has taken action to help maintain habitat for native pollinators such as butterflies, bees and birds through their Eastside Pollinator Garden Project. Over one hundred gardens in Inyo and Mono counties have been certified as pollinator-friendly habitat since the Eastside Pollinator Garden Project was established five years ago. Gardeners who take steps



to certify their garden as a pollinator habitat this year will receive a voucher for \$125 worth of native plant purchases. Once ESLT has visited and certified their garden as pollinator friendly, the gardener will also receive an ESLT Pollinator Garden plaque for display in their yard.

Those unable to attend the Pollinator Garden Workshop are invited to stop by Eastern Sierra Land Trust's annual celebration of spring, GardenFest, to be held at the ESLT office backyard (250 N. Fowler St. in Bishop). Visitors will be able to purchase native plants, learn gardening tips and tricks from experts and more. For more information about the Eastside Pollinator Garden Project, the upcoming workshop and potluck, GardenFest or to RSVP to one of these events, please contact ESLT Education Coordinator and AmeriCorps Member, Marie, at [marie@eslt.org](mailto:marie@eslt.org) or (760) 873 – 4554.

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to protect vital lands in the Eastern Sierra region for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical and watershed values. To learn more about ESLT's work and how to get involved, visit [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org)*



Photo Caption: ESLT's Pollinator Garden Project empowers Eastern Sierra residents like Kathy Saladin-Smith to create and certify pollinator-friendly habitats.



Get started on creating a pollinator garden by attending ESLT's Pollinator Garden Workshop on April 6<sup>th</sup>.



Photo caption: Pollinator-friendly gardens are a great way to attract pollinators like butterflies and hummingbirds to a yard.